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NRO Review Completed.

**SECRET**  
MEMORANDUM

TO: E. J. Barlow

FROM: A. H. Katz

SUBJECT: Reconsideration of our Commitments to BMD  
on 117L and Related Subjects.

COPIES TO: C. P. Bahrman, M. E. Davies, J. F. Digby, R. H. Frick,  
W. B. Graham, S. M. Greenfield, A. L. Hiebert, W. W.  
Kellogg, P. Kinnell, L. B. Rumph, Col. R. F. Schaefer,  
P. Sears.

DATE: 6-20-57

MEMO NO.: M-3203

Classification Cancelled

or changed to

**UNCLASSIFIED**

AUTHORITY: IS map II

MAR 24 1972

We'll start with a brief review of the history, documents, letters, negotiations, and decisions on the above subject:

1. On 12 October, 1956, Katz and Davies addressed M-4919 to the Steering Committee. Subject was proposed project for Engineering Division. That memo, which needs hardly any revision at this date, described our desire, willingness, and great interest in the formulation of a project on pre-hostilities reconnaissance. A considerable part of this project would have been devoted to a job we were asked to do by BMD's 117L Project Office. This job, briefly, had to do with the formulation of operational concepts, considerations of utility, parcelling out of preferred payloads, and similar matters related to the reconnaissance satellite.

2. This request of BMD's was made more official in a letter dated 20 November, 1956 to Frank with an incoming letter, No. CL-1944. This letter from Colonel Terhune summarized the points previously made in M-4919 referred to above.

3. We stalled BMD off very neatly with a left jab in the form of a letter, L-21397 dated 26 December 1956. This letter says we are going to do it pretty soon, and said that at some future time we will discuss in detail what we will do. In the meantime, we had a meeting between Ed, Barlow, Glad Putt, Bill Graham, Katz, Davies, and Colonels Oder and Riepe, and Major Wienberg from the 117L office. The result of these discussions was a letter, No. L-2166 dated 5 February, 1957, from Collbohm to Terhune which confirms the previous discussions, and says that we will start the project three to six months following the date of the letter. The last paragraph states: "No further formal requests on your part will be necessary to initiate this work."

Well, here we are, some time later. To rephrase an old tag line, it is time to perform or get off the chart. Some of the things which BMD requested us to do they have already done themselves. At this particular moment, we know full well through our informal contacts with these people that they are still very anxious for us to get into this act.

Now this alone is not enough reason to do so. The project is eminently worthwhile. It fits in extremely well with our own competencies and interests,

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E. J. Barlow

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June 20, 1957  
M-3203~~SECRET~~

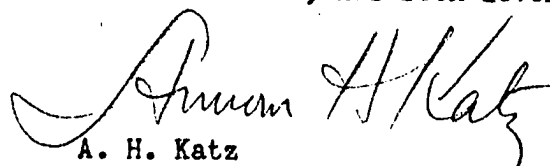
and if anything, the general subject of pre-hostilities reconnaissance is becoming of increasing importance to the U.S. Air Force (and therefore at least ought to become so to Rand also).

The Steering Committee knows that we have been very active on Air Force Project 461L for the last few months. Though one might not suspect this at first glance, it turns out that there is a good deal of relationship and carry over between 461L and 117L. The same kind of analysis and effort, an analysis of requirements, the same criteria for palatability, acceptability, the same types of analyses of performance and use, the data handling problem, the R & D necessary to handle extraordinarily high resolution photography--these problems are in many respects identical between the systems. They differ of course in time phasing. It is about precisely this point that we can make the major contributions.

The 117L people, by and large, do not know, except by osmosis, about many other projects now going on. Of course these people are active, aggressive, and knowledgeable, and they have friends all over, which is the informal but nonetheless most effective way of getting relevant information. In turn, our contribution to 461L can be made much more meaningful, and our ability to relate this (as indeed we attempt to anyway) to many other Air Force projects is increased.

We are therefore proposing that we initiate the project with BMD (at a pace and scope to be delineated a bit further below), but--and we believe this to be crucial--this project should not be undertaken unless it is generally understood at both ends of the line that this is part of a much larger project. We previously suggested the name Project SIN (SEE IT NOW) for this project. In this grab-bag we will consider pre-hostilities reconnaissance in general. We would consider it by levels of reconnaissance, missions, priorities, and time periods, and thus produce a rationale (which we already have as far as 461L is concerned) into which in matrix form all pre-hostilities reconnaissance projects could be displayed graphically and meaningfully.

The next logical step should be the writing of a letter to BMD telling them that we are ready to get going. Details as to what we will undertake must await consultation with the 117L Project Office. After these two steps are taken, we will be in a position to come back to the Steering Committee with a more detailed analysis of the personnel requirements for this job. At this time we can envision only minimum such requirements. As a minimum, both Davies and Katz should occupy themselves with 461L and 117L on a full-time basis. This implies that Davies should get out of the basement where he has been working on Riot Squad. We never have attempted to deprecate the significance of tactical reconnaissance. However, I now believe that we can turn this particular phase of our group's activities over to Cartheuser, who has lately shown more interest in tactical reconnaissance, has been developing, and has been learning.

  
A. H. Katz  
Electronics Department

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